

1Dan Batty and Celeste Batty Rasmussen

Tape 71

2Transcribed April 2001 by Janet Taylor, Uintah County Library Regional History Center.

Narrator: This is an interview with Dan and Celeste Batty at 101 South 200 West on 29 November, 1977. This is Deidre Northern of the Golden Age Center, Vernal, Utah.

[The tape begins with Celeste and Dan talking without responding to any specific question.]

Celeste Batty Rasmussen (Celeste): July 1894 . . .

Dan Batty (Dan): '94, was it?

Celeste: Well, yes, dear. I was born in '95.

Dan: Well, then it must have been '94.

Celeste: Yes. Now, listen, that'll just do you.

Dan: Well, -----

Celeste: When, what? They've got Vilate, and Zina, and Dora.

Dan: Yes.

Celeste: And Mother brought those three little girls. She drove the little buggy with one horse, forded all those streams and all that rough, and I'll tell you, that was a rough road. Mother drove that one horse and held those three little girls in that buggy and, when she could, held a parasol over their heads to shield them from the July sun. The Wallsburg people had a white cow. Those Wallsburgers had painted on her sides the night before they left, "Vernal or Bust" on each side of that cow's sides.

Dan: Yes, I remember. "Ashley" –

Celeste: "Ashley or Bust!"

Dan: ----- On the sides of that cow – that white cow. They were bringing that cow with them, but that cow was led —

Celeste: Mother drove the little buggy with the three little girls, and Father drove one loaded wagon, and Uncle [?] drove the other one, one of his brothers. That was Uncle Wallace.

Dan: Yes, I believe it was.

Celeste: Wallace and Uncle Charlie. Uncle Charlie lived with us some, too, but mainly Uncle Wallace, as I remember. All right. One of those brothers – either Uncle Charlie or Uncle Wallace, I believe it was Wallace – drove one wagon, Father one wagon, and Mother trailing with that little buggy and those three little girls and the parasol over their heads. She said —

Dan: How many days were they, sis?

Celeste: Oh, I think it was a full week at least.

Dan: I think they were eight days coming from Wallsburg on that.

Diedra Northern (DN): Why did they write “Ashley or Bust!” on their cow?

Celeste: Because they were moving.

Dan: It was just a joke.

Celeste: They were moving from Wallsburg to Ashley Valley.

Dan: They were coming to Ashley Valley. It was kind of a Halloween, see. And it said, “Ashley or Bust!”

Celeste: Sure, it told people where they were going. It was just like a flag.

Dan: Did he homestead that place on Green River?

Celeste: Oh, I think he bought it, dear.

Dan: You think he bought it.

Celeste: Yes, and I’ve got the date. I read it the other day.

Dan: You did?

Celeste: Oh, yes. Just barely did.

Dan: Well, I can remember when we were down there —

Celeste: Was that when you hurt your leg?

Dan: When I hurt my leg.

Celeste: Well, it seems you were about six then.

Dan: I was about six years old, and my father and —

Celeste: You fell off a horse or something.

Dan: No.

Celeste: How did you hurt it?

Dan: My father and Clyde Boren and somebody else was in a wagon.

Celeste: You mean Mose?

Dan: No. Clyde, I think.

Celeste: Clyde was a kid.

Dan: Well, anyway, the single bed – have you ever seen those wagon boxes – double beds?

Celeste: No, she hasn't.

Dan: Well, a single bed is about that high, and then there was another bed fit on through some racks. Anyway, they were in the single wagon bed, driving, breaking a colt, driving around the stack-yard and I was in the wagon behind them. They were all standing up, so I stood up. Father turned around and said, "Sit down, Danny. You'll fall out." Of course, I sat down, until his back was turned, then I was standing back up again.

Celeste: You were just a little –

Dan: I was six years old. They ran over a cedar post. Of course, that rocked the wagon, and I fell out. I went down between the hind wheels and the wagon box. Yes, I remember it. That wheel just took me right on down. And it ran over that leg, right across there. The wagon did. Well, they unhooked the horses, and Father said, "Bring that horse and hook him up on the buggy." So, they brought the horse, and curried him, and while he was currying the horse, the other one got most of the grain and foundered.